(b) if so, the places in the country which are likely to be developed as 'National Tourist Place'; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be started in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Government has decided to develop important tourist destinations and circuits including ancient monuments, places of cultural importance and places of historical importance. Places associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi are also included.

(b) The places would be finalised in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(c) Development of tourist infrastructure is a continuous process.

Economic assistance to various organisations

†2501. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic assistance is provided by Government to the various organisations to expand various cultural and literary activities;

(b) if so, the total economic assistance provided together with the names of the organisations to which these assistance was provided during the year 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the details of the work and the sphere of work of each organisation?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Culture provides financial assistance for promotion of cultural and literary activities through sixteen Schemes operated by the Department and through thirty four attached/subordinate/autonomous organisations. The details regarding attached/subordinate/autonomous organisations are available in the Annual Reports of the Department of Culture for 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 which have been placed in Parliament Library. Details of NGOs getting grant of Rs. 1.00 lakhs and above are available in the Annual Reports for 1998-1999 and 2000-2001. Details of NGOs getting grant of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and above are available in the Annual Report for 1999-2000.

Special package for improvement of tourist place

†2502. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to announce a special package for improvement of tourist places in view of the earnings from tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of places identified by Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The following new schemes have been included in the Annual Plan 2002-03 for development of tourism infrastructure and promotion of tourism in the country:

(1) Integrated development of tourist circuits.

(2) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development.

(3) Assistance for large Revenue generating projects.

(4) Capacity Building for Service providers.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.